IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

THOMSON REUTERS ENTERPRISE)
CENTRE GMBH and WEST PUBLISHIN	NG)
CORPORATION,)
)
Plaintiffs and)
Counterdefendants,) C.A. No. 20-613 (SB)
)
V.	REDACTED - PUBLIC VERSION
ROSS INTELLIGENCE INC.,)
ROSS INTELLIGENCE INC.,)
Defendant and)
Counterclaimant.)

PLAINTIFFS' REPLY IN SUPPORT OF THEIR MOTION FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT (NO. 1) ON COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

OF COUNSEL:

Dale M. Cendali Joshua L. Simmons Eric A. Loverro KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP 601 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10022 (212) 446-4800

Miranda D. Means KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP 200 Clarendon Street Boston, MA 02116 (617) 385-7500

Original filing date: February 13, 2023 Redacted filing date: February 23, 2023 MORRIS, NICHOLS, ARSHT & TUNNELL LLP Jack B. Blumenfeld (#1014)

Michael J. Flynn (#5333) 1201 North Market Street

P.O. Box 1347

Wilmington, DE 19899

(302) 658-9200

jblumenfeld@morrisnichols.com mflynn@morrisnichols.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs and Counterdefendants Thomson Reuters Enterprise Center GmbH and West

Publishing Corporation

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As detailed in Plaintiffs' opening brief in support of their motion for summary judgment on copyright infringement, D.I. 250 ("Pls.' Br."), ROSS's undisputed conduct constitutes copyright infringement. On *direct infringement*, ROSS does not argue that there are genuine disputes as to material facts requiring resolution by the jury. Rather, it contends that Plaintiffs only own copyright registrations in the Westlaw database as a "single compilation," and thus can only sue on the Westlaw database as a whole, rather than its constituent parts. D.I. 310 ("Def.'s Opp.") 1. From there, ROSS contends it only copied a small portion of the whole Westlaw database, so Plaintiffs cannot prove substantial similarity. ROSS misunderstands the law. Copyright law is clear that the copyright in a compilation extends to its original constituent parts. Plaintiffs' copyrights extend to the West Headnotes, and ROSS has failed to identify any factual disputes concerning its direct infringement of the West Headnotes in the Undisputed Memos.

On *indirect infringement*, ROSS once again does not argue that there are genuine disputes as to material facts requiring resolution by the jury. Instead, it circularly argues that LegalEase did not directly infringe because the Court has not yet determined whether ROSS's copying is a fair use. This argument makes no sense. ROSS has never argued that LegalEase's copying was fair use and, even if it had not waived that argument, ROSS's claim is a tacit admission that, absent fair use, direct infringement for LegalEase's copying is established. ROSS also argues that, even if LegalEase's direct infringement is established, the evidence does not show it is indirectly liable. This is false—as explained below, the evidence unambiguously shows ROSS is indirectly liable for LegalEase's direct infringement of the Westlaw Content.

Accordingly, the Court should grant summary judgment for Plaintiffs on these issues.

I. ROSS IS LIABLE FOR DIRECT COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

ROSS's opposition contends that

. Def.'s Opp. 1, 12–13. The opposition posits that

Id. 1, 13–14. This

counter-intuitive conclusion stems from ROSS's complete misunderstanding of fundamental principles of copyright law, including registration, ownership, and substantial similarity.

A. The West Headnotes are Covered by Plaintiffs' Copyright Registration

It is black-letter copyright law that, where the owner of a copyright for a collective work also owns the copyright for the constituent part of that work, registration of the collective work is sufficient to permit an infringement action for constituent parts. *See*, *e.g.*, *Educ*. *Testing Serv. v. Katzman*, 793 F.2d 533, 538–39 (3d Cir. 1986) (finding "the fact that a registrant denominates the material as a compilation does not in itself signify that the constituent material is not also covered by the copyright"); *Idearc Media Corp. v. Nw. Directories, Inc.*, 623 F. Supp. 2d 1223, 1230 (D. Or. 2008) (collecting cases); 17 U.S.C. § 103 ("The *copyright* in a compilation [extends] to the material contributed by the author of such work..."). This understanding not only comports "with common sense" and the Copyright Act's text, *Idearc*, 623 F. Supp. 2d. at 1230, it is consistent with the Copyright Office's purpose in allowing single group registrations for collective works in the first place. *See* U.S. Copyright Office, Circular No. 1, 7: Copyright Basics (2012); *Craigslist v. 3Taps*, 942 F. Supp. 2d 692, 976 (N.D. Cal. 2013) ("absurd and inefficient to require the author of a larger work to individually register every possible smaller component of that work").

Rather than registering each West Headnote individually, Plaintiffs periodically register

Although ROSS conflates them, registration and ownership of a copyright are not one in the same; registration is not a condition of copyright protection, it is a condition for bringing a lawsuit. See 17 U.S.C. §§ 408(a), 411(a).

the Westlaw database as a single group registration for an automated database. D.I. 1-01. In many of their registrations, including those from the last few decades, Plaintiffs specifically identify as author-created material "original and revised text and compilation of legal material." D.I. 1-01, at 240–328. Accordingly, Plaintiffs can bring this lawsuit based on copyright infringement of the constituent parts of the Westlaw database that they authored; they are not limited to suing for infringement of the Westlaw database as a whole. Educ. Testing, 793 F.2d at 38–39. This includes the West Headnotes, which are authored by Plaintiffs' attorney-editors, and the copying of which is the subject of Plaintiffs' motion and has been part of this lawsuit since day one.

B. Plaintiffs Own a Valid Copyright in the West Headnotes

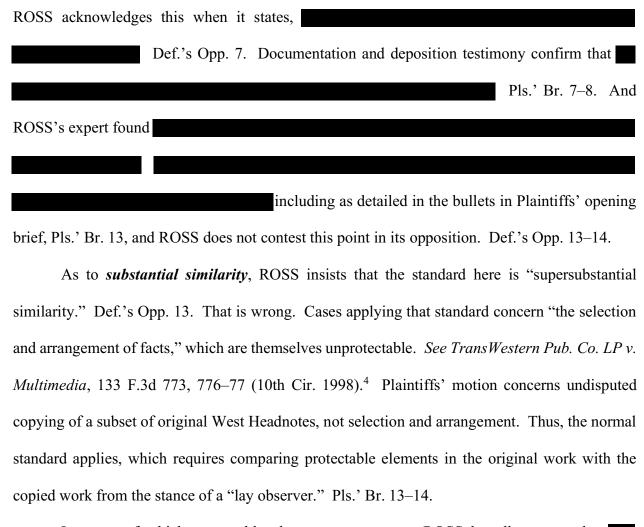
As explained in Plaintiffs' opening brief, copyright subsists in a work that is "independently created" and "possesses at least some minimal degree of creativity." *Feist Publ'ns v. Rural Tel. Serv. Co.*, 499 U.S. 340, 345 (1991). ROSS's opposition does not dispute that a copyright registration is *prima facie* evidence of validity, including ownership and originality. *See*, *e.g.*, *Broad. Music, Inc. v. Moor-Law, Inc.*, 484 F. Supp. 357, 362–63 (D. Del. 1980). Nor does the opposition dispute that the West Headnotes are creative (it argues only that Def.'s Opp. 13) and independently authored. Pls.' Br. 11. This element has been met.

C. ROSS Copied the West Headnotes in the Undisputed Memos

Plaintiffs' opening brief explains how the two sub-elements of copying, (1) actual copying and (2) substantial similarity, *see Dam Things from Den. v. Russ Berrie & Co.*, 290 F.3d 548, 561–62 (3d Cir. 2002), are also met here. Pls. Br. 11–14. The undisputed facts show *actual* copying.

It is revealing that, despite Third Circuit authority directly contradicting its position, ROSS does not cite a single case to support its contention that Plaintiffs' registration limits them to asserting infringement of the entire Westlaw database. Def.'s Opp. 12.

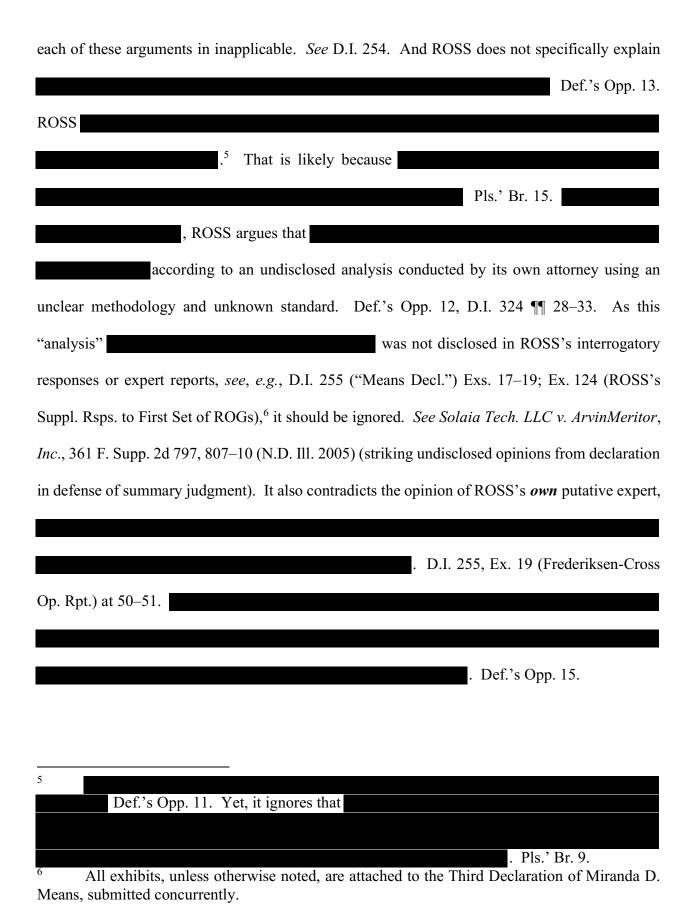
ROSS argues that Plaintiffs' reliance on *Feist* is a tacit admission that "copyright standards that govern compilations apply." Def.'s Opp. 13. In reality, Plaintiffs cite to *Feist* because it is one of the most relied upon Supreme Court cases on copyright originality of all time.



In terms of which protectable elements to compare, ROSS broadly asserts that Def.'s Opp.

13. As explained in Plaintiffs' opposition to ROSS's motion for summary judgment on fair use,

ROSS's cases on the copying necessary to support a finding of substantial similarity are likewise inapposite, as they concern mere compilations of *facts*. *See Experien Info. Sols. Inc. v. Nationwide Mktg. Servs., Inc.*, 893 F.3d 1176, 1184 (9th Cir. 2018) (compilation of consumer data); *Schoolhouse, Inc. v. Anderson*, 275 F.3d 726, 728 (8th Cir. 2002) (compilation of preexisting data); *Matthew Bender & Co. v. W. Publ'g Co.*, 1997 WL 266972, *1 (S.D.N.Y. May 19, 1997) (compilation of facts; West Headnotes were not copied or at issue). Even in *Ross, Brovins & Oehmke P.C. v. Lexis Nexis Group*, on which ROSS relies, the court distinguishes between the compilation copyright (which inheres in the organization and selection of forms) and the copyright in the forms themselves (how they looked). 463 F.3d 478, 483 (6th Cir. 2006). ROSS's argument is likewise irrelevant.



II. ROSS IS INDIRECTLY LIABLE FOR LEGALEASE'S INFRINGEMENT

As detailed in Plaintiffs' opening brief, ROSS is contributorily liable for LegalEase's infringement because it knew or should have known that LegalEase was copying the Westlaw Content and materially contributed to it. Likewise, ROSS is vicariously liable for LegalEase's infringement because it financially benefited from the copying, and it had the right and ability to supervise and control its agent, LegalEase. ROSS's arguments on each of these points are meritless—the undisputed evidence shows ROSS is indirectly liable here.

A. The Undisputed Evidence Shows LegalEase Directly Infringed

ROSS argues that it cannot be determined at this stage whether LegalEase's conduct constitutes infringement for two reasons—neither of which are correct.

Pirst, ROSS argues that

Def.'s Opp. 15. As explained above, Plaintiffs are not limited to suing on the Westlaw database as a single compilation. See supra 4 & n.4. Moreover, in making this argument, ROSS claims that

Def.'s Opp. 15. This is false. In their opening brief, Plaintiffs identified numerous undisputed documents and testimony detailing and showing LegalEase's copying, including admissions by LegalEase executives. Pls.'

Br. 7–9, 15–16. ROSS does not dispute the accuracy of those documents and testimony. Nor does ROSS point to specific evidence in the record raising a material factual dispute. 8

Poss contends Plaintiffs' Exhibit 103, which is a Def.'s Opp. 16. ROSS has used this document in numerous depositions throughout this case, including during the deposition of Mark Hoffman—who created the document—wherein ROSS extensively questioned Mr. Hoffman about the document, what each tab showed, and what each term meant. Likewise, ROSS's expert, Alan Cox, relies on Exhibit 103 in his expert reports.

ROSS argues that

Def.'s Opp. 16.



. Def.'s Opp. 16–17. In particular, ROSS asserts that

Id. ROSS also notes that Westlaw's Terms and Conditions contain a fair use provision and, thus, without a ruling on whether ROSS's copying is a fair use, there can be no ruling on whether LegalEase's copying constitutes infringement. Id. at 17. This is a strawman argument. Under the terms of its license, LegalEase was initially permitted to download and display Westlaw Content. But LegalEase lost the benefit of its Westlaw license when it started using Westlaw in ways that violated its terms and conditions, and thus none of this copying was authorized thereunder. Pls.' Br. 7–9, 15–16; see also Bitmanagement Software GmBH v. U.S., 989 F.3d 938, 950 (Fed. Cir. 2021) (infringement where Navy acted outside license scope by violating condition); TD Bank v. Hill, 2015 WL 4523570, at *13–14 (D.N.J. July 27, 2015); Dam Things, 290 F.3d at 561-62. Moreover, whether ROSS's copying is a fair use has no bearing on whether LegalEase is directly liable. And as explained in Plaintiffs' opposition to ROSS's motion for summary judgment on fair use, fair use does not apply. See D.I. 254.

LegalEase

Pls.' Br. 7–9, 15–16; see also Ticketmaster L.L.C. v. RMG Techs., Inc., 507 F. Supp. 2d 1096, 1105 (C.D. Cal. 2007) ("The copies of webpages stored automatically in a computer's cache or random access memory ('RAM') upon a viewing of the webpage fall within the Copyright Act's definition of 'copy."). LegalEase also

. Pls.' Br. 7–9, 15–16. ROSS does

not dispute this. Nor does ROSS dispute that

See supra 4–5.

B. ROSS is Contributorily Liable for LegalEase's Direct Infringement

ROSS argues that it is not contributorily liable because it did not have knowledge or materially contribute to or induce LegalEase's infringement. Def.'s Opp. 17–20.

With respect to *knowledge*, each of ROSS's arguments have no merit. *First*, ROSS argues there is no evidence it knew of LegalEase's infringing conduct. Def.'s Br. 17. This is incorrect. ROSS had actual knowledge of the relevant provisions of LegalEase's license, including that using Westlaw for competitive purposes was prohibited, and ROSS's 30(b)(6) witness, who was also ROSS's Head of Legal Research, testified

. *See* Means Decl. Ex. 15 (van der Heijden 30(b)(6) Tr.) 174:10–13. Moreover, the undisputed evidence shows ROSS knew

. See

Pls.' Br. 17. ROSS does not raise a material dispute as to this evidence.

Second, ROSS's contention that

is incorrect. Westlaw's terms of service are publicly available at https://static.legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/static/general-terms-conditions.pdf and the provisions that LegalEase violated have not changed during the relevant period of its and ROSS's infringement. *Compare* Means Decl. Ex. 79 (TR-0002844) (contract as of July 1, 2015 with breached provisions) *with* Ex. 76 (TR-0002812) (same dated July 1, 2017).

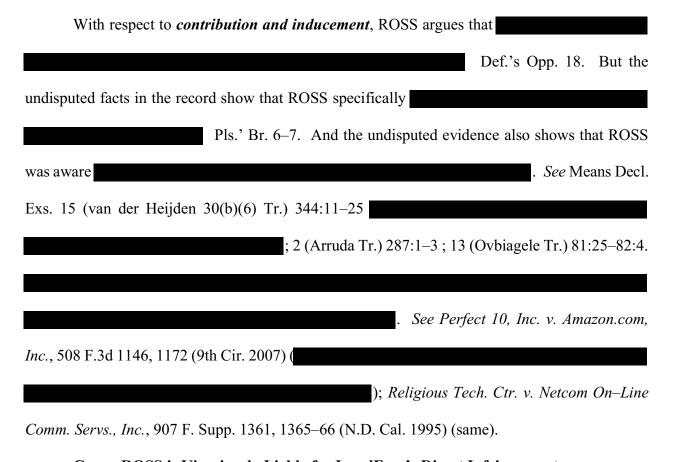
Third, whether LegalEase warranted it was not violating Plaintiffs' rights is irrelevant.

. Pls.' Br. 5.

Id. 17. Rather than address Plaintiffs' undisputed evidence of ROSS's knowledge, ROSS simply states

Def.'s Opp. 17. As noted above, that is not sufficient to create a genuine dispute of material fact. The direct evidence cited in

Plaintiffs' opening brief shows that ROSS had the requisite knowledge. *See Leonard v. Stemtech Int'l Inc.*, 834 F.3d 376, 387–88 (3d Cir. 2016).

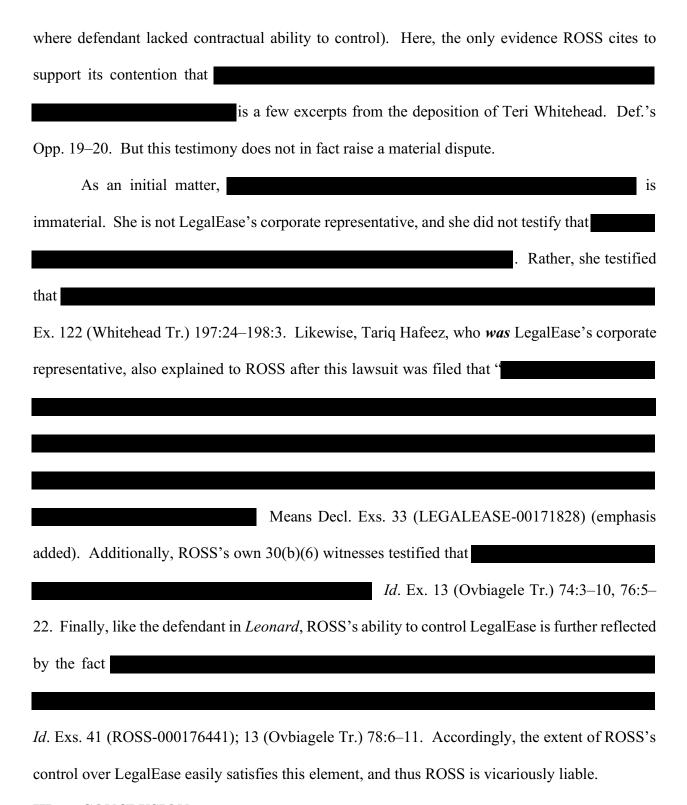


C. ROSS is Vicariously Liable for LegalEase's Direct Infringement

Turning to vicarious liability, ROSS does not deny it had a direct financial interest in LegalEase's infringement, leaving no dispute as to that element. Instead, ROSS only argues that

. Def.'s Opp. 19–20. ROSS is mistaken.

Third Circuit law is clear that the control element is satisfied where a "defendant's 'pervasive participation in the formation and direction' of the direct infringer['s]" activity supports a finding that "defendants were in a position to police the direct infringers." *Leonard*, 834 F.3d at 388 (citing *Fonovisa, Inc. v. Cherry Auction, Inc.*, 76 F.3d 259, 262–63 (9th Cir. 1996)); *see also Gershwin v. Columbia Artists M, Inc.*, 443 F.2d 1159, 1163 (2d Cir. 1971) (vicarious liability even



III. CONCLUSION

Plaintiffs respectfully request that their motion for summary judgment on copyright infringement be granted in its entirety.

MORRIS, NICHOLS, ARSHT & TUNNELL LLP

OF COUNSEL:

Dale M. Cendali Joshua L. Simmons Eric A. Loverro KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP 601 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10022 (212) 446-4800

Miranda D. Means KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP 200 Clarendon Street Boston, MA 02116 (617) 385-7500

February 13, 2023

/s/Michael J. Flynn

Jack B. Blumenfeld (#1014) Michael J. Flynn (#5333) 1201 North Market Street P.O. Box 1347 Wilmington, DE 19899 (302) 658-9200 jblumenfeld@morrisnichols.com mflynn@morrisnichols.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs and Counterdefendants Thomson Reuters Enterprise Center GmbH and West Publishing Corporation

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on February 13, 2023, I caused the foregoing to be electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using CM/ECF, which will send notification of such filing to all registered participants.

I further certify that I caused copies of the foregoing document to be served on February 13, 2023, upon the following in the manner indicated:

David E. Moore, Esquire
Bindu Palapura, Esquire
POTTER ANDERSON & CORROON LLP
Hercules Plaza, 6th Floor
1313 North Market Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
Attorneys for Defendant and Counterclaimant

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mark A. Klapow, Esquire
Lisa Kimmel, Esquire
Crinesha B. Berry, Esquire
CROWELL & MORING LLP
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
Attorneys for Defendant and Counterclaimant

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Gabriel M. Ramsey, Esquire
Jacob Canter, Esquire
Warrington Parker, Esquire
CROWELL & MORING LLP
3 Embarcadero Center, 26th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
Attorneys for Defendant and Counterclaimant

/s/ Michael J. Flynn

Michael J. Flynn (#5333)